

NOTICES

ALICE HILLIS has been appointed by the Hon. the Secretary of the **MANILA TIMES**, to print and publish the same, and will be paid for the same.

T. COWEN, formerly of the **Hongkong Telegraph**, has been appointed by the Hon. the Secretary of the **MANILA TIMES**, to print and publish the same, and will be paid for the same.

KOTHEN MARK LODGE, No. 264, has been appointed by the Hon. the Secretary of the **MANILA TIMES**, to print and publish the same, and will be paid for the same.

REGULAR MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in the **FREEMASONS' HALL**, Zetland Street, on **TUESDAY**, the 29th instant, at 8.30 p.m. precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited to attend. **Hongkong, 24th November, 1898.**

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR MANILA, VIA AMOY.

THE Company's Steamship

"**TAI LEE**,"

Captain H. Kock, will be despatched for the above Ports, on **SATURDAY**, the 26th instant, at Noon, instead of as previously advertised.

This Steamship has Accommodation for Passengers.

For Freight or Passage, apply to **SHEWAN TOMES & CO., General Managers.**

Hongkong, 24th November, 1898.

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CANTON.

THE Steamship

"**LIGHTNING**,"

Captain J. G. Spence, will be despatched for the above Ports, on **THURSDAY**, the 11th December, at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to **DAVID ASSONSON, SOHNS & CO., Agents.**

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FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CANTON.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1898.

REUTER'S MESSAGE.

Reuter informs us in the telegram which we publish to-day that the United States have made an offer of twenty millions of dollars for the Philippines, so it appears evident that the Americans have come to the conclusion that it is only just to pay Spain for the islands which they had not as a matter of fact captured prior to the peace protocol being signed. The American flag flies at Cavite and at Manila but all Philippine Ports outside of those in the hands of the insurgents are still under the control of the Spaniards. There can be little doubt but that the United States could have taken the whole of the archipelago had not peace been arranged so soon, but to have established themselves in all the islands would have taken at least another twenty-five thousand troops, which were not on the spot and consequently the only legitimate claim which the Americans could put forward was that they had captured Manila and Cavite. Under these circumstances the offer of the United States to pay for the islands is only fair and just and we are pleased to see that the Philippine question bids fair to be settled without further bloodshed.

Of course it takes two to make a bargain and Spain may not accept the offer of twenty millions of dollars, but we do not think that she is likely to throw obstacles in the way of any honourable terms of peace. She has suffered greatly by the war and the price to be paid by the Americans for the Philippines would help to put her on the road to prosperity again. Then too, there is the question as to whether or not the proposal for the United States to buy the Philippines originated with Spain or with the Americans. If the proposal came from America then we may possibly see the objective Powers of Europe making larger bids for the islands which would naturally lead to complications.

At all events this offer on the part of the United States shows that they do not lay claim to the portions of Luzon captured by the rebels prior to the signing of the peace protocol and it therefore follows as a natural conclusion that the Americans have not formally recognised the Philippines as allies but disown all claim to the islands which they appear to have captured. It is therefore evident that they have been left out of the American calculations altogether. Mr. F. A. B. has already been despatched to Washington as the representative of the Philippine government, but we are without news as to his reception at the capital or any negotiations that he has entered into with the American Government. Even supposing that no objections are raised by the European Powers to the purchase of the Philippines by the United States we find that the question of the American occupation of the island will not have been settled by any means. There will still remain the question of the status of the Philippines which will require most delicate handling, for unless some satisfactory arrangement is made with them they will be liable to become a thorn in the side of the United States which will give rise to an immense amount of trouble.

While these political difficulties are apparently subsiding we have our own little troubles in Hongkong which require urgent attention. It is not to be placed on a par with questions of national importance, but it is the dry season in full swing. Queen's Road is a natural drainage channel and the dry season is more like so many strips of the Sahara than aught else, owing to the blinding and suffocating clouds of dust raised by the dry and penetrating northerly winds, augmented by the efforts of sundry scavengers who ply their trade in the dry channels. The traffic, both foot and vehicular on our main streets is extremely heavy at all times of the day and the watering and dust laying arrangements are utterly inadequate. It is farcical indeed to see a coolie with two wooden buckets making a pretence of watering a thoroughfare that is traversed hourly by thousands of people. These clouds of dust carry with them what is undoubtedly a mass of disease germs and a decided menace to public health and if the Public Works Department are unable to make a move in the matter it is high time that the Sanitary Board should take up the question of more water carts.

FRANCE AND ITALY.

LONDON, November 22nd.

A Commercial *Motus Wendi* has been concluded between France and Italy on the basis of the most favoured nation clause. This marks improved relations as well as commercial relations between the two countries.

THE PHILIPPINE QUESTION.

The United States offer \$20,000,000 for the Philippines, besides proposing the mutual renunciation of the American and Spanish indemnity claims in Cuba. The proposal also includes an offer to Spain for the admission of Spanish goods to the Philippines for a term of years. (Free). A party in America declares that the policy of the United States in the Philippines, should be the maintenance of the open door.

THE NEW GOVERNOR.

Mr Henry Blake, the new Governor of Hongkong is due here tomorrow by the steamer *Comandante*. His Excellency is expected to land at the Queen's Statue Wharf at 10.30 a.m. and will be sworn in at the Council Chamber immediately afterwards.

WEATHER REPORT.

The Observatory report says:—On the 24th at 11.50 a.m.: Barometric changes are slight. Pressure is high over China, and gradients remain rather steep with very strong monsoon in the N part of the China Sea. FORECAST:—Fresh N.E. wind; dry.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

In the matter of the appeal of the Chinese Postman who was sentenced to six months' hard labour on the 20th inst., the recorder has now pronounced his verdict and he is still in gaol.

FOR kidnapping a female child a woman was today sent to gaol for nine months. She claimed that she stole the child in order to compensate her for money she had spent on the father of the child.

It is stated that the four-masted sailing ship *Yuen* (formerly a home in the Blockhouse school and that unsuccessful attempt have been made to tow her off. Her Captain arrived at Shanghai on the 15th inst. to arrange for the transportation of his vessel and hopes to be here shortly.

The Band of the K.O. Regiment will play the following programme at the Officers' Mess, Murray Barracks, tomorrow, commencing at 8 p.m.:—

Overture.....The Goodbye.....Pibroch

Selection.....The Goodbye.....Pibroch

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A PRINCE DISPATCH

from reliable official sources states that the Empress Dowager has been recently collecting men to add to the defenders of the capital. One of the numerous recruiting stations scattered throughout Chihli province is at the Tian gate of Peking, where the standard of admittance into the new force is the ability to lift a weight of eighty catties and to bend an "eight-strength" bow, one "strength" being equal to ten catties' strength of the arms.

FOR more than a year now the Egyptian Government has been carrying on an important geological survey in the mountains along by the Red Sea and in the Sinai Peninsula. English geologists are engaged in the work, and their duty is to investigate the mineral possibilities of the country, report on matters of archaeological interest, draw new maps, &c. The places they explore have not, in some cases, been visited for perhaps 2,000 years, and they are finding many evidences of mineral wealth, including old emerald mines.

THE dust nuisance in Queen's Road was tolerably in evidence to-day. From about Murray Barracks eastward there was a squad of scavengers sweeping the dry side channels and all who happened to get to leeward of them got eyes, ears, and nostrils filled with dust that bore no end of bacilli, microbes or other fearsome things. Several shopkeepers, the other side of the Commissariat offices had men at work throwing water on to the road with small tin dip ers. The work was well done but, oh! the pity of such a force. One good watering cart would keep Queen's Road in trim till further orders.

THE Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Netherdale Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

St. John's Cathedral.....\$171.71

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